MONTEREY NEWS

September 2001
VOLUME XXXI · Number 9

The Town

New Part-Time Police Officer

James Stanton has been appointed to the Monterey Police Department as a part-time officer. The appointment is subject to his completion of the required certification.

Bear Problems

There have been problems with bears, particularly on Hupi Road, getting into garbage cans left out for pickup. Cans should be well sealed and should not be put outside until the morning of the pickup day.

Monterey School

The Board met with William Cooper and Maryellen Brown of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District to discuss the condition of the Monterey School building. The building is in deteriorating condition and is in need of immediate repairs that will cost approximately $10,000. It is the school district's responsibility to maintain the building.

Solid Waste Committee

Joyce Scheffey of the Solid Waste Committee met with the Select Board to discuss the recycling program and the Transfer Station. The board asked the Town Director of Operations, Maynard Forbes, to review the plans for rebuilding the Transfer Station and to confer with Leigh Tryon, who last year submitted the only bid for rebuilding it.

Jean Germain

Enjoying the sun at LakeFest

Town Hall Drainage Problem

The Select Board met with David Bixby, the Town Hall architect, and Greg Allegrone, the contractor, to discuss various solutions to the drainage problem. Water appears to be entering the basement in the area where the new and old foundations meet. The Highway Department excavated to the crushed-stone level of the foundation to determine if the joint between the old and new sections was properly sealed as specified in the contract with the construction company. It was determined that the seal had been done properly.

New Telephone Number for Tax Collector

Townspeople are asked to note that Tax Collector Henry Makuc has a new telephone number: 413-644-0299. Please use this number for any calls having to do with Town taxes.

No Response to Bid Protest

The Attorney General's office has not responded to date to the formal protest to the equipment contract for Town road work filed by Glenn M. Heller.

Tree Warden Meeting

Roger Tryon asked the Select Board to schedule a meeting to discuss various issues relating to the office of Tree Warden. A meeting has been scheduled for September 10.

— Suzanne Hoppenstedt

ॐ

Transfer Station Hours

Sunday ..... 10 a.m.–6 p.m.
Wednesday ..... 8 a.m.–1 p.m.
Saturday ..... 8 a.m.–1 p.m.

The *Monterey News* is published monthly under the auspices of Monterey United Church of Christ, Monterey, MA 01245.

Solid Waste Report

The Select Board is planning an "All Boards" meeting for October 9. The main topic of discussion will be "Pay As You Throw" (PAYT); a concept that has greatly improved the recycling efforts of the towns that do it. The idea is that you pay for what you can't (or don't) recycle. Recycling is mandatory in Monterey, but it is hard to enforce. "PAYT" makes sense. The towns that do it have found that it keeps tipping bills down, and greatly increases their recycling rate. The public is welcome to attend this meeting.

Monterey is a member of Mass. Recycling Incentive Program (MRIP). This voluntary program provides cash back for recycling efforts — the more recycled the more cash. To be eligible for the program you have to meet a minimum number of criteria: Some examples: Buy recycled products for your town and track their purchase. Bonnie Jurgenson, the Town Administrative Assistant, has done a great job here. Everything that can be bought recycled in our Town Offices of Monterey, is bought recycled. Thanks to Bonnie, the Monterey General Store now sells recycled paper towels and toilet paper. The state asks that to meet the MRIP requirement the municipality must reach at least 164 pounds of recycled material per capita. I am proud to report that Monterey recycled 311 pounds per capita last year, for which we received $800. Recycling pays.

CRTs and fluorescent tubes are banned from Massachusetts landfills. These items can be stored at the Transfer Station until they are picked up by the company that recycles them. Also, the new HHW program may begin taking fluorescent lamps and/or other materials in the second year of the program.

We are hoping to soon have the prefabricated building we purchased some time ago placed on site at the Transfer Station for the purpose of storing fluorescent tubes, CRTs, microwaves, etc. We would also like to used part of the building for a "Swap Shop," where residents can exchange good used items.

Jamie Cahillane, our Coordinator for the Southern Berkshire Solid Waste District, reports that the HHW mini-site collection in Great Barrington on August 15 was a great success. The collection crew poured used motor oil for an hour past the appointed closing time. Monterey has its own motor oil recycling capability, but this is good news for the towns that don't, for the district, and for the planet.

Please refer to the household hazardous waste collections schedule (p. 6) to catch up on other collections that will take place this year.

— Joyce Scheffey

Great Meats
Wine /Spirits
News
Fresh Vegetables

Penny Candy
Videos
Bakery
Groceries

MONTEREY STORE NOTES

Buy one $10 note now for $9 & redeem it next summer for $10 worth of merchandise. (Ten notes for $85 - a savings of $15)

The concept is known as Local Currency. In effect this is what happens: A community supplies its local business with a "line of credit" to see them through lean times - in our case - winter.

Local currency keeps hard earned dollars in ones own community. You can use your notes to pay local bills or redeem them at the store. Communities worldwide have discovered that local currency saves their local businesses from the burden of establishing a "line of credit" with a bank at that bank's preferred interest rate. The Monterey Community is our bank. We thank you.

Monterey Spirit Lifts LakeFest to Huge Success

What a day! What a time! What a town! LakeFest 2001, on August 18, was a resounding success, soaring on the spirit of this fantastic town we live in. The good people of Monterey opened their hearts — and their pocketbooks. The result was a day to remember, topped off with a dazzling display of fireworks exceeding all expectations. The magnitude of that display — every boom and every burst – was paid for, in full, by contributions from our community. Monterey, you made it happen!

From 3 o'clock, the beach was buzzing. Pouncing upon two truckloads of newly delivered LakeFest sand, castle builders — ranging from two-year-olds to one of Monterey's noted builders — astounded the crowds with creative castles of all shapes and sizes.

Jean Germain

Launching the paper boat navy

Admiral Dean Amidon of Monterey's volunteer civilian navy (Randy Gelbard, Hy Rosen, Don Sweeney, and guide Rod Palmer) launched free boat rides on our great Lake Garfield. Over one hundred passengers cruised in comfort, taking in the scenery. With captains close at hand, several kids took turns driving the boats, their wondrous smiles adding sunshine to the day. Simultaneously, Ron McMahon escorted exciting canoe trips on Brewer Pond.

Connoisseurs of fine art witnessed Camille Maye and an entourage of pixie painters creating a mural of dancing colors and impressive proportions. Perhaps MASS MOCA would like it for exhibition! That wasn't the only painting going on. Myra Rodriguez volunteered her face-painting services, along with a few young assistants, decorating some of Monterey's finest faces, plus a chest or two — including one young man who, by his own request, walked off with Peter Pan and a bass guitar adorning his torso.

Around the craft table busy little fingers assembled an armada of paper boats. At 5 o'clock, propelled by a trumpet fanfare from Arnie Hayes, over one hundred such ships set sail for ports all over the world. Actually, it was all over the swimming area, but it did seem so grand.

By 5:30, hearty appetites assembled for the potluck dinner. Potluck, my foot! Monterey's cooks showed their stuff with a bodacious buffet of culinary delights. Grill master Mario Canki hot dogged and hamburgered to perfection. Bountiful tables of delicious dishes elicited rave reviews — and caused many a belt to be

Peter S. Vallianos
Attorney at Law
528-0055

General practice includes real estate purchases, sales, family transfers and transfers in trust, zoning, land use matters, conservation restrictions, landlord-tenant; wills, probate; commercial law.

***

I will meet with you at your home in Monterey.

A.S. Goldfarb

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loosened. But wait, there's more ... and marshmallows toasted over Bob Rausch's crackling campfire.

Next stop was aboard the shuttle bus where Paul Dixon drove throngs to the town church for a most unusual concert sponsored by the Monterey Cultural Council. The multicultural music of Moonlight, Morningstar, and their son Miro set feet tapping and hands clapping. Concert goers were asked for — and once again delivered — $5 donations to the Heifer Project, a worldwide organization that offers animals and training to families in order to help them support their families and their communities.

After the concert came the moment everyone was waiting for — Dave Lewis's Berkshire Fireworks. At the crack of 9:30 came the first big bang. Then a rapid succession of booms and colors formed a psychedelic neon garden in the sky. Rat, tat, tat ... crackling coconut trees ... streaking willows. Boom, baroom, bang ... peonies, red to green with blue pistils, dazzling blue dahlias, and draping spider shells. Soaring skyward, a thousand spangled chrysanthemums. A long dynamic display ... and finally the finale. Rockets soared five hundred feet skyward, their payloads bringing delight to young and old alike. Whoosh ... the shrill whistles of silkworms. Thunderous salutes! Variegated bouquets, gold brocades, and glittering gold peonies ... all brought "oohs" and "ahhs" from the crowd — and when it was over, a rousing round of appreciative applause.

If you missed LakeFest 2001, don't fall apart completely. Good news! The Lake Garfield Association (LGA) plans to do it again next year. Write down the date: August 11, 2002. With the help of this great town, it will, no doubt, be even bigger and better. Yeah, Monterey!

It took a giant effort by many people to make LakeFest happen. We'd like to thank The Academy (whoops, wrong speech.) We'd sincerely like to thank Shelly, at the General Store, for serving as ground zero for fund-raising. Kudos go to the inimitable Chief Backhaus and his crew for their diligent land and sea patrols. Plus, gratitude to our illustrious Fire Chief, Ray Tryon, and his team for their fire safety precautions and watchful eyes.

Thanks to the Duffys for the use of their land to launch the fireworks, and to the Schwartz family for evacuating their house adjacent to the launching pad.

And a great big "thank you" to our MONTEREY BUSINESS SPONSORS

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Monterey General Store

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We hope to do a collage of photographs capturing the spirit of LakeFest, so if you have any that are appropriate please contact me.

— Hy Rosen

Chapter 61A Information for Property Owners

Massachusetts law allows property that is actively used for agricultural purposes, if it meets minimum size and income requirements, to receive favorable tax treatment. Chapter 61A is the law that makes this possible. If a property is placed under its provisions it is assessed at less than market value, effectively lowering taxes.

The "less than" value is determined each year by the Farmland Valuation Advisory Commission of the Massachusetts Department of Revenue.

This year the published values are increasing. Land used for vegetables, tobacco, sod, or nurseries increases from $1,100 per acre to $1,805. Orchards, vineyard and blueberry use increases from $750 to $1,768 per acre, hay and pasture from $310 to $434 per acre, and nonproductive land from $45 to $75 per acre. This is the largest change in values in many years, and reflects the rising prices being paid for property throughout the Commonwealth as well as the increased willingness of land developers to pay penalties for taking land out of Chapter 61A classification.

The Board of Assessors provides this information to forestall any misunderstandings or questions that may arise. Taxpayers, especially those who have property governed by Chapter 61A provisions, are welcome to call the Assessor's Office with questions and to meet our new Assistant Assessor, Tim Taylor.

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McLaughlin-Wilson Fund Scholarships Awarded

The McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarship Fund has awarded twenty-one scholarships totaling $80,000 to Monterey students, eleven to first-time applicants and ten to continuing students currently enrolled in college. The scholarships are based on academic achievement, community service, the desire to achieve academic and life goals, and financial need.

First-time scholarships for fall enrollment were awarded to:

Hannah Bracken, Johns Hopkins University, mathematics major;

Maggie Clawson, Hampshire College, genetics or biology major;

Kimberly Gero, Westfield State, graphic design;

Lauren Goldfinger, Marist College, multimedia;

Michele Haapanen, Liberty University, counseling;

Gordon Hamm, Devry Institute of Technology, telecommunications management;

Deidre Higgins, Dean College, theater studies;

Lincoln Lipsky, Pratt Institute, photography;

Andrew Shaw, Curry College, communications;

Cristina Temenos, Syracuse;

Katherine Vallianos, Swarthmore.

Renewal scholarships for ongoing study were awarded to:

Joshua Aerie, graduate student, University of Colorado, Boulder, cello performance;

Shaylan Burkhart, senior, University of Toronto, Italian and Portuguese and literature majors;

Ellen Hamm, senior, Tulane University, cell and molecular biology;

Shanna Hamm, sophomore, Florida Institute of Technology, meteorology;

Carey Leining, sophomore/junior, Grand Canyon Univ., health services;

Bethany Sadlowski, senior, Boston University, environmental science;

David Shea, Northeastern University, marketing;

Emily Sottile, sophomore, Rhodes College, international studies;

Jeremy Vallianos, sophomore, Evergreen State Univ., environmental studies;

Noah Wright, sophomore, Kansas State University, psychology.

New Hours for Blood Pressure and Health Clinic

The Monterey Blood Pressure and Health Counseling Clinic has changed its hours of operation. The clinic will now be held the second Thursday of every month from 2:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m. at the Town Hall, which is now handicap accessible.

High blood pressure, also called hypertension, is a risk factor for heart and kidney diseases and stroke. This means that having high blood pressure increases your chance (or risk) of getting heart or kidney disease, or of having a stroke. This is serious business: **Heart disease is the number one killer in the United States, and stroke is the third most common cause of death.**

About one in every four American adults has high blood pressure. High blood pressure is especially dangerous because it often gives no warning signs or symptoms. Fortunately, though, you can find out if you have high blood pressure by having your blood pressure checked regularly. If it is high, you can take steps to lower it. **Just as important, if your blood pressure is normal, you can learn how to keep it from becoming high.**

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Why Compost?

Composting offers numerous benefits. It reduces Town costs by diverting perfectly good compostable materials from filling up the landfill. Every trip to a land fill costs money and there are tipping fees on top of that.

It is estimated that food and yard waste comprise 30 percent of the household waste stream. Composting diverts this potentially valuable "black gold" from the waste stream back to enrich where it came from. Also, organic materials can turn nasty when dumped in a landfill. They can create explosive methane gas and acids that react with other nasty landfill goodies to create a toxic leachate which is a ground water contaminate. Not good stuff, that. These same articles when composted break down into rich compost. Meat and dairy products should not be composted.

Compost Bins Available

Our adjustable bins are called the New Age Composter; you can make the bin smaller or larger — up to 25 square feet. They are made of 100 percent recycled plastic from Massachusetts plastic recycling programs. They have unique top and bottom cones that virtually eliminate the need for turning. The bottom cone brings up air and the top cone holds in moisture. Metal stakes, which are included, secure it to the ground. They are rodent and UV resistant, and have a lifetime warranty.

We have about 25 composting bins; we also have about 25 green recycling containers (for bottles, cans, and plastic) — first come, first served. For composters & recycling containers call Bonnie at the Town Offices, 528-1443.

MONTEREY LIBRARY

Monday ..... 7–9 p.m.
Tuesday ..... 9:30 a.m.–noon
Wednesday ..... 3–5 p.m.
Saturday ..... 9:30 a.m.–noon
..... 7–9 p.m.

Phone 528-3795

Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Information

In July the southern Berkshire household hazardous waste (HHW) regional collection program was launched. The program consists of several one-day comprehensive HHW collection events for all your household chemicals, as well as additional mini-collection days.

Items to be collected at the mini-collection sites: Unwanted oil paint, stains, paint thinners, and turpentine, as well as automotive waste oil. (Monterey collects its own motor oil in a special container at the Transfer Station.)

Materials to be collected at the comprehensive one-day event:

From the garage: fuels/gasoline/kerosene, antifreeze, degreasers, driveway sealer, brake fluid, carburetor cleaner, transmission fluid, car wax, polishes, roofing tar, pool chemicals.

From the workbench: oil base paints, stains, and varnishes, wood preservatives, paint strippers/thinners, solvent adhesives, lighter fluid.

From the yard: poisons, insecticides, fungicides, fertilizers, weed killers, mothballs.

From the house: rubber cement, airplane glue, fiberglass resins, photo chemicals, chemistry sets, oven cleaner, drain and toilet cleaner, spot remover, rug and upholstery cleaner, floor and metal polish, hobby/artists supplies, mercury thermometers, thermostats, button batteries, flea control products.

Latex paint will not be collected at these events. Dried latex paint can be disposed of with regular trash. Kitty litter or newspaper can be used to absorb the excess liquid until it is dry. Waste haulers do not want residents to put liquid paint in the trash.

The remaining dates for mini-collections for 2001 are:

Thurs., Sept. 13: Otis, 3 p.m.–6 p.m.
Sat., Sept. 22: Lenox, 9 a.m.–noon.
Sat., Oct. 13: Great Barrington, 9 a.m.–noon.

The remaining date for comprehensive collection:

Sat, Oct. 20: Great Barrington, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Locations:

Lenox: DPW, 275 Main St., Rt. 7A, across from Mass Highway Dept.

Great Barrington: Transfer Station, Rt. 7, across from Monument Mtn. High School

Otis: Transfer Station, 538 West Center Road

Preregistration is required: Please call the Center for Ecological Technology (CET), 1-800-238-1221 or 413-445-4556, or email jamiec@cetonline.org

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Shawn Tryon Wins Again

Shawn Tryon, son of Leigh and Wendy Tryon, and member of the Monterey Fire Department, has won the Coors Light 21 fifty-lap motor racing event at Stafford Speedway in Connecticut for the second time.

Shawn, age 19, a graduate of Mt. Everett High School, has been in training to excel at this demanding gauntlet, with speeds up to 150 miles per hour, since he was 15. He is the designated driver for Tryon Motor Sports of Monterey, whose members are as follows: Leigh Tryon, Shawn Tryon, Chris Tryon, Brook Walsh, Scott Sheridan, Mark Amstead, Teresa Amstead, Scott Amstead, Ed Riska, Tish Thorpe, Peter Chaite, Adam Chaite.

The motors have been built by Denny Raspucci of Great Barrington, who has a renowned track record of building engines that can perform in intense competition, and is undergoing treatment for a life-threatening disease. The members of Tryon Motor Sports wish him well; they are learning his expertise and carrying on his winning spirit.

Gentlemen, start your engines!

— George Emmons

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Monterey Land Trust News

The Monterey Land Trust held its annual meeting on July 28 at the home of Joyce and Lew Scheffey. The 2000–2001 Board of Directors was duly elected. They are, Mary Brock, Fred Chapman, Suzanne Hoppenstedt, Gige O'Connell, Storrs Olds, Kathryn Roberts, Joyce Scheffey, Roger Tryon, and a new board member, Claudia Weldon.

We are especially happy to welcome Claudia to our Board. She comes with a deep commitment to land preservation and, to use her own words, "lots of energy to put my words into action." We hope that she will be able to represent our Land Trust at the National Land Trust Rally, which will be held in Baltimore at the end of September. She is a recent resident of the Berkshires, a passionate land preservationist and land use advocate. She is particularly interested in the land issues that confront the Berkshires today. Toward this end she looks forward to contributing her thoughts and energy to the Monterey Land Trust and Monterey community — both of which, she says, have contributed so much to land preservation in this region of the Berkshires.

The Officers to the Board will be elected at the next board meeting, to be held on September 10.

At the meeting Mary Brock introduced the subject of possible Land Trust participation in the American chestnut restoration project; the grand old tree, like the buffalo, was once a particular American wonder.

I was inspired to find out more, and this is what I gleaned from the American chestnut website: "Not too long ago, the American chestnut grew profusely and was an all-important component of the northeast forest system from Maine to Florida. It would grow 100 feet high and was an accommodating timber source for loggers as it grew straight and was often branch-free for fifty feet. Loggers tell of loading entire railroad cars with boards cut from just one tree. The chestnut blight struck in 1904. By 1950, except for the shrubby root sprouts the species continually produces (and which also quickly become infected), the keystone species on some nine million acres of eastern forests had disappeared."

Along with the Elm Watch Group, the American chestnut project seems a worthy cause for our land trust to embrace. Gould Farm's Bob Rausch has been involved with both groups and we will be talking to him about this project. If any of you know of any good size chestnut trees, please call Mary Brock (528-3510) or Bob Rausch at Gould Farm.

In other news, the Board voted to meet the Fire Company's matching grant offer of $1,000 for the purchase of new trees. For further information, see last month's *Monterey News* or call the Monterey Tree Warden, Roger Tryon, at 528-4091.

— Joyce Scheffey

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An Open Letter on Bidding on Town Projects

The following letter was submitted to the Select Board on August 27, 2001.

To the Monterey Select Board:

I am writing in reference to the July 10 letter of recommendation written by Maynard Forbes concerning this year's town equipment bids. It seems important that this letter not stand alone in the public records of the town, in the minds of the Select Board, or in the pages of the *Monterey News*. I respectfully submit the following factual information in response to the statements made by Mr. Forbes:

1. "LB and Tryon construction were closer and some items were less expensive with one bidder and other items were less expensive with the other.... and with the bid prices comparable...."

LB Corporation was about 4% higher on one piece of equipment. Tryon Construction was, on average, about 20% higher on seven pieces of equipment. Dump trucks, which have been in almost constant use on town jobs, were 25% higher with Tryon Construction. For the category of the mid-size excavator, Tryon Construction's equipment does not qualify, as it is under weight by 12%.

2. "One has to assume the cost of transporting equipment from Lee to Monterey will be added so the scale tips in favor of Tryon Construction as there is no transportation time."

LB Corporation did not intend to charge for transportation costs to Monterey. This could have been determined by a single brief phone call.

3. "Roger Tryon's prices were generally higher when you look at equal amounts of weight or yardage."

This logic cannot be applied to heavy equipment. If it could, then the rental cost for a 15,000-lb excavator would be less than a third of that for a 50,000-lb machine, which of course is not the case. It can be noted that, for equivalent machines, my bid prices were 10% and 25% lower than Tryon Construction's.

4. "Neither Roger Tryon or LB Construction submitted a 5% bid deposit as specified in the Notice of Bid. On this basis alone, the two bids can be denied."

The Select Board was not required to accept the proposal of the remaining, highest bidder "by default." Monterey's Notice of Bid clearly reserves the right to reject any bid that does not serve the best interests of the town.

Also, this was the first year that bid deposits were required, and this change was made in spite of the fact that the Notice of Bid requested only hourly rates on equipment, with no guarantee of work to be awarded.

5. "Roger Tryon also failed to list specific projects as specified in the Notice of Bid.... Only Tryon Construction fully complied with all specifications of the bid."

Tryon Construction did not include "approximate dollar amounts of the projects completed and a brief description of the work," as required by the Notice of Bid. Only LB Corporation included this information in their application.

6. "One also has to look at the reliability and track record of using Tryon Construction in the past. Leigh has served the Town well in the past...."

Mr. Forbes had been employed by the town less than one month at the time of his writing.

7. "... we know the Town is getting a good value for its dollar."

The only way to determine this would be through a process of free competition, which the town does not have a history of fostering.

This addresses each of the points raised in Mr. Forbes' letter. Apparently, it was determined that my letter of July 9 did not merit any response from the Select Board. A response to this one would be welcome.

Sincerely,
Roger Tryon

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Free Services for Healthy Homes

Glynis Oliver

The lineup at the Firemen's Steak Roast on July 28

The Center for Ecological Technology (CET) has received a $10,000 grant from the Berkshire Environmental Fund to educate parents and those who work with young children in Pittsfield and south Berkshire communities about reducing the use of hazardous products in the home. The grant will enable CET staff to provide information, presentations, and services that help households learn about less toxic alternatives to hazardous products.

Many items commonly found in the home, including mercury fever thermometers, cleaning, lawn care, and automotive products, and pesticides, can cause serious health problems. Children are especially vulnerable to unwanted health effects such as asthma, skin rashes, and learning disabilities because their bodies are still developing. Children less than six years of age account for about 50 percent of the total poisoning exposures according to statistics reported by American Association of Poison Control Centers. In 1999, approximately 120,000 poisoning exposures from household cleaning products occurred in children less than six years of age. If disposed of in the trash, many products found in the home can also degrade the quality of our water and air. By selecting less toxic or nontoxic products, parents can help create safer, healthier homes. And nontoxic products do not need to be disposed of at household hazardous waste collection events, thus reducing the costs of these events to communities.

CET is offering free services to parents, child care providers, health professionals, and other organizations or individuals that work with families and young children. These services include presentations about decreasing the health risks from exposure to toxic products, safer alternatives, and making sense out of product labels. CET offers a series of safe and fun interactive activities at a child care facility that teaches staff, parents, and children about reducing the use of toxic products. CET can also work with child care and/or cleaning service staffs to inventory current cleaning products and help select less hazardous products. CET can work with local organizations to collect mercury fever thermometers and exchange them with digital models. Staff training and free digital thermometers (while supplies last) are available.

Please contact CET at 1-800-238-1221 or joyk@cetonline.org to discuss these new services, borrow a traveling display on mercury, invite CET to attend an event, or to receive fact sheets and additional information.

Berkshire Environmental Fund provides grants that promote environmental protection along the Housatonic River.

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Monterey Meetinghouse Welcomes New Pastor

Elizabeth Goodman will preach her first sermon as pastor at 10 o'clock, September 9, at Sunday worship service in the Monterey Meetinghouse. She brings to Monterey a blend of deep faith, quick humor, and a sense of call to serve here.

Although a frequent visitor over the years, Liz is a new Berkshire resident. She lives in Lenox with her husband, Jesse Goodman, a fellow at The Austen Riggs Center in Stockbridge. She holds a Masters of Divinity degree from Harvard Divinity School and most recently has been a pastoral intern at Old South Church in Cambridge.

As pastor, Liz will be available to the public on a regular basis from her office in the Meetinghouse. Hours will be posted at a later date. Please join the congregation in making her welcome.

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Rep Rap

With prescription drug costs escalating seemingly daily, our elders and disabled residents are finding this health expenditure to be an unbearable burden. Too often these residents are forced to choose between purchasing the medicine they need or spending the money on other necessities such as food or heat. The state is not oblivious to these concerns and in 1997 established the Senior Pharmacy Program, a program that is being revised each year to fulfill the prescription needs of residents in dire need of assistance.

In the past two years, eligible residents have been able to apply for the Pharmacy Program which evolved into the Pharmacy Plus Program, then, beginning April 1, 2001, evolved into the Prescription Advantage Plan (PAP). In order to be eligible for the Advantage Plan, a person must be a resident of Massachusetts, age 65 or older or having a qualifying disability with an annual income at or below 188 percent of the Federal Poverty Limit. Also, the person cannot be enrolled in MassHealth or CommonHealth. Anyone enrolled in the Pharmacy Program or Pharmacy Plus Program as of March 31, 2001, is automatically eligible for the Advantage Program. Those who were not enrolled can pick up an enrollment form at any local council on aging, on-line at www.800ageinfo.com, or at my district office at 45 Railroad Street in Lee.

The Prescription Advantage Plan requires payment of a monthly premium payment, a deductible, and a co-payment, amounts of which are based on gross annual household income. An enrollee's maximum out-of-pocket expenses will not exceed $2,000 or 10 percent of his or her gross annual income, whichever is less.

Depending on gross annual income, the payments are computed on a rolling scale. For instance, one person with a gross annual income of $19,333–$21,480 would pay a $45 monthly premium and then pay $10 for generic drugs and $25 for brand names. A married couple earning $26,125–$29,028 would be under that same scale except the premium would be $36 per month. This example is approximately the middle of the scale, so as a person or married couple's income is greater or less the scale would shift accordingly. Once the co-pay and deductible reach $2,000 or 10 percent of the enrollee's gross annual income, only the cost of the premium per month remains, as the Advantage Plan absorbs any further out-of-pocket expenditure.

The Executive Office of Elder Affairs, which sponsors the Plan, is working diligently with the Legislature to securing funding for the Plan and is also working with the Joint Committee on Health Care to streamline the Plan so that the burden of skyrocketing prescriptions may be curbed. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the Plan feel free to contact my full-time district office at 243-0289 or call 1-800-AGE-INFO.

— Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins

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Senator Says

Auto Pilot Loan Program for Low-Income Families

In an effort to put more Massachusetts residents on the road to work, I have filed legislation that would provide interest-free auto loans to qualifying low-income families. The Auto Pilot Program, which is supported by several of my colleagues in the Senate, is intended to provide basic transportation to families in order to promote their self-sufficiency. Transportation is a major challenge for those making the transition from welfare to work. Reliable transportation is essential to the long-term success of employees and, consequently, our economy as a whole. It is also critical to employers who depend on their employees to consistently report to work.

Many of the towns in my district have very little or no public transportation. As a result, residents in these areas are at a disadvantage in terms of commuting to work. I filed this legislation because I believe we should assist those who are willing to work, yet in certain cases are unable to simply because they do not have access to reliable transportation.

To qualify for the Auto Pilot Program, a family must have at least one dependent child, and at least one of the adults must be employed. Other considerations in determining eligibility will include, but not be limited to: alternative means of public transportation available to the family, the number of children a participant has, and whether any of the children have disabilities.

Will March

State Senate President Thomas Birmingham (center), a likely Democratic gubernatorial candidate next year, stopped at the Monterey General Store on the first leg of his 250-mile bicycle tour of the state. While in town he got got an earful from Joyce Scheffey (l) and Nancy Marcus (r) about the need for releasing funds for the Clean Election law approved by voters in last year's election. Our state Senator, Andrea Nuciforo, also joined the tour for the Berkshire County leg.

If the legislation is adopted, the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) will administer the Auto Pilot Program and act as a lien holder. DTA will have the first priority to purchase abandoned vehicles throughout the Commonwealth. The agency will not purchase abandoned vehicles for more than $4,000, vehicles that are considered to be sports cars, or other vehicles inappropriate for family use. DTA will approve loans first, and then locate an appropriate vehicle, on a case by case basis.

The total loan cost will include the cost of the vehicle, the fees required to properly license individuals, the fees to register the vehicle, and the cost of the first insurance premium. These payments will help participants with some of the initial burdens of owning a car.

As part of the program, DTA will administer a counseling session to all Auto Pilot participants prior to signing the loan. Participants will be informed of their responsibility to pay back the loan, and of the financial ramifications of the program. Monthly installment payments will be placed in the Auto Pilot Revolving Loan Fund to sustain the program's financial viability for the future.

As always, please contact my district office with questions or comments at 413-442-6810.

— Senator Andrea F. Nuciforo, Jr.

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I never asked her for anything
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above the sea
— agave —
* * *

almost an anchovy
if only I could stop
swimming into rocks
* * *

oh to be inside her
wave after wave on the rocks
— maremosa —

— R. Zukowski

Splendor solis

Glory really
without a word
earth falls over
toward the Presence

as trees hold wide their arms
and bright streaming wonder

flies up to tremble
on each branch

that moment:

incarnate
day-feathered firebird!

— A. O. Howell

Letter to Shinkichi Takahashi

I saw the ants in the moonlight, too,
scurrying like the mind toward sweetness
the eye, as well as the other
four mundane worlds
allow for the sea of being
and its navigation
it's the mind that deceives:
self appointed king of Nothingness

— R. Zukowski

Tears

The storm is over
yet pattering down
leaf to leaf
drops
continue.

— A. O. Howell

A Lonely Day

This house of ours seems changed today,
A lonely stillness fills each room.
I hear no chatter light and gay
To drive away the gloom.
The day seems long, the hours drag by;
No peace is mine now I'm alone.
I watch the clock with longing eye
And wait his coming home.
Our Bobby went to school today;
His baby days are too soon o'er
And now I miss him at his play
With toys about the floor.
The little dog, his faithful pal,
Has followed at my heels all day;
In his big brown eyes a worried look
Replaces one of play.
He comes to me for comfort
As he shows his grave concern;
But Bobby's only gone to school
And soon he will return.

— Eleanor Kimberley

A Zen Moment

As I look
out my window,
my window of thought —
with wonder,
I wonder,
and see all as One

— Ann M. LaVallée

Decked in Pond

in a looking glass
etched by wind
you dress me

stone choker
silken slip
feathered shawl
insect clip

sanguine grin

— Claudia Weldon

Summer Song

go to her edge

listen
between the lyrics
of summer song

laughter
in runic rhythms
rippling on rocks

reuniting love

— Claudia Weldon

Sandisfield Arts Center Seeks Applicants for 2002

The Sandisfield Arts Center is currently seeking applicants for its 2002 performing arts series. Artists of all types are encouraged to apply for the summer series, which takes place from June through October in the main hall of the historic 1839 meeting house, or for the "coffee house" series, which takes place on the lower level in a more intimate setting. Visual artists and arts educators are also welcome to apply for possible exhibits and classes.

This year the Sandisfield Arts Center is holding an eclectic series featuring bluegrass, jazz, classical, and Brazilian music, as well as the premiere of a play by Sandisfield author Val Coleman, and several youth programs.

Events are sponsored by the arts center, local businesses, or the Sandisfield Cultural Council. To apply, please send a description of the program, a CD or video example if possible, and your background information by October 1 to: George Preston, Sandisfield Arts Center, PO Box 31, Sandisfield, MA 01255. For additional information, call 413-258-4904.

Highland Paradigm Shift: Scots Pine

In my childhood we were lucky to have a big yard and a wild ravine with all sorts of trees. We had stately elms, sugar maples, productive little plums, Chinese chestnuts planted by Dad, and a family favorite for generations: white pines. White pines planted themselves in my childhood mind-set as the model for all conifers. Without even thinking about it, I lined up the hemlocks, spruces, balsams, and other conifers beside the white pines and categorized them as: shorter-needled, more pointy, more aromatic. Some just registered with me as "not a white pine."

One of these was a twisty creature growing on the edge of our lawn. It was definitely a pine of some sort, by its needles and cones, but the bark was odd. It looked normal enough near the base, being sort of gray, but at the top and near the ends of its branches it was a sickly yellowish orange. And the overall shape of the tree was almost embarrassing: it went up about fifteen feet and then turned twisty and lopsided. I was barely interested enough to learn its name, and I think I was not interested enough to remember it. Well—it was worse than not interested. I was ashamed of it!

I grew up a McAllester, with a scarf in my clan tartan and the usual Scots-American distant sense of an ancestral homeland somewhere in the Highlands, where men in kilts played bagpipes. In my vague imaginings there were no women in these places at all, and there certainly were not weird twisty pine trees like the one in our yard.

To be fair, I did discover early in my tree-climbing years, that the Scots pine was a good climber. Those complicated curvy branches at the top made a natural platform which was a great place to sit. But my sylvan aesthetics were too much directed by my ideal New England white pine and I could only see the Scots pine as an unattractive immigrant. I suffered from the particular narrow-mindedness of the young, the under-fifty.

In the next few decades I sometimes encountered Scots pines here in the New World. I remember scouting a nature hike over near Chatham, New York, and puzzling over some huge stately pines with orange bark near the top. I was surprised to find they were Scots pines. My impressions had been set by that disrespected tree of my childhood, which I'd seen through critical, ungrateful, youthful eyes. I just couldn't believe these exotic-looking, handsome trees were the same species. Of course, it was the eye of the beholder that had changed, not the Scots pine.

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This summer in July I finally went to Scotland and beheld the Scots pine in its native home. What a glorious creature she/he is! We hiked in Glen Affric, north of Loch Ness and the Great Glen, and saw mature trees, most of which were 150 years old or more. The Highland landscape is largely barren, always raining. The result is a soggy desert, the trees having long since been cut for shipbuilding and other things, the large predators being extinct, and sheep having had their way in many areas. In Glen Affric as in many parts of what once was Caledonian forest, the deer have exploded in population in the last 150 years. During this time all the seedling trees have been gobbled up by hungry roe deer and red deer, so there are big old pines from earlier times but no youngsters coming along. It is a population of grandparents and great-grandparents.

These are some gorgeous old folks, however. From a distance, a mature Scots pine looks to me like a deciduous tree in shape—an oak or a sugar maple. It has a broad canopy and none of your conical coniferous aspect. The branches are long and they curve up and down and around. In a grand old-timer they do not look sick and twisted. They have character. They are very large. One woman I met in Scotland said they look funky, but she meant no disrespect.

The canopy is so broad that where Scots pines grow in any numbers the ground beneath is quite shady. This means that seeds that fall here will not germinate. They are not shade-tolerant and need to be blown by the wind to open places. Under the big pines there are certain characteristic plants which do thrive, and a whole world of insects, birds, and small mammals for which the Scots pine is the keystone creature. One of these is the capercaillie, a type of grouse which became extinct in Scotland in 1735 with over-hunting and disappearance of habitat. It was successfully reintroduced in 1837 by a Lord Breadalbane, who brought birds over from Scandinavia to his Taymouth castle where they were released. But now the Taymouth birds have dwindled to fewer than 1,000. In any captive breeding program it is important to study the health of the wild habitat before considering reintroduction.

Scots Pine, Glen Affric about 70' tall.

There are several conservation programs in Scotland working to restore the Scots pine–based Caledonian forest. Cones are collected and seeds are started in controlled nurseries (captive breeding program). But before they can be set out in the Highlands, large areas must be fenced to keep the deer off, and these fences can be a hazard to other wildlife. In one study, at the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology in Scotland, it was found that the low-flying capercaillies had been crashing into the deer fences and dying. Thirty-two percent of the population has been lost in this way.

In our visit to Glen Affric we saw young Scots pines, planted years ago, which are past the vulnerable age. Deer fencing is being taken down there and you can see heaps of it rolled up ready for removal. This area, like many places in the U.K., was replanted thirty and forty years ago with American conifers like Sitka spruce. The idea was to get a quick return in harvestable lumber, but first the land had to be drained with huge ditches. Now, in Glen Affric, the Sitka spruces are being cut down, the ditches filled in, and Scots pines planted. It is a thrill to see them thriving there and to imagine the big grouse, the Scottish wildcats, maybe someday wolves, living there.

My reintroduction to the Scots pine has broadened my mind in so many ways. I still love the Monterey white pines, but now when I think of my Scottish heritage, the guys in kilts with their bagpipes are joined by the understory plants of the Caledonian forest, the wild boars, the Scottish crossbill (a bird that opens pine cones), capercaillies, and a big orange-barked pine which is both male and female and grows way outside the stereotypical green cone.

— Bonner J. McAllester

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Dinah's Choice

Hope Was Here
by Joan Baur

Hope Was Here is about a girl named Hope Yancey. Hope has had a pretty rough life since she was born. She was born too early and too small — only 2 pounds and 5 ounces. Hope's mother, Dina, couldn't take care of her so she left her with her older sister Addie. Hope's mother left her with two things: the name Tulip (which she changed when she was twelve) and her gift for waitressing.

Hope and her Aunt Addie move from place to place because Addie's job is as a diner cook. Whenever a diner shuts down, they have to move again. Whenever they leave a place, Hope writes in half-inch-tall letters HOPE WAS HERE.

When Hope and Addie move to Brooklyn, New York, Hope thinks that she has finally found her home. One night Gleason Beal takes all their money and runs off with it. The diner stays open for a little while on what it earns daily, but when things start to break and need fixing, Hope and Addie have to close it. They move again, this time to a small town in Wisconsin.

To see if Hope, a city girl, can adapt to the country, and to see what happens to Hope in Wisconsin, check this book out at the Monterey Library.

— Dinah Mielke

Ancient Autumn

Does the change of seasons turn you on? Is any sign of your horoscope more creative than any other? When it comes to the color kaleidoscope of a deciduous autumn, the bottom line in the Berkshires is real money, as busloads of leaf peepers pilgrimage along the highways and by-ways of Mother Nature's art show.

In Monterey, the golden rays of each new dawn, a little later every morning, bring the visual promise of a changing scene that enfolds in shades of swamp maples at first, then the burned oranges of oaks, and finally the sugar maples in a blaze of glory that inflames our images of illuminated landscapes, to inspire what otherwise be a nonevent of coming and going about our daily routine.

Night comes on early as the days grow short when you reach September, and after the sun drops below the hills across Lake Garfield, the barred owls up on Chestnut Hill sound their ominous salutations to the lengthening shadows of longer darkness. While we sleep, the Earth turns ever so slowly in its orbit toward the equinox on September 22, when the hours of light and darkness will once again be of equal length everywhere on our planet.

And the gaunt and hungry black male bear, correctly called a boar, that came through our yard at the vernal equinox, to bash our birdfeeders with one swipe of its paws, terrorize our neighbors, and uproot our brush piles looking for mice, must now weigh close to six hundred pounds, and is gravitating toward a long winter's nap in its cave. Does he know if the coming winter will be like last year, which burned up the previous summer's store of his body fat, while also exceeding the Town of Monterey's budget for salt and sand by 50 percent?

All this time, the face of the Northern Hemisphere is slowly turning away from the direct rays of the sun, like the oval shape of a waning moon, toward the edge of darkness, while the metabolism of mammals on Earth will soon begin to slow. Then hibernation is just over the horizon, and the feet of the snowshoe hare have already turned white. The autumnal celestial crossing of the paths of planets in the sky that measure a seasonal changing of the guard are for us in the country a time of harvest, a cornucopia of berries, fruit, and vegetables that brings us back to an agricultural and predatory gathering of Earth's bounty.

Just six months ago, we were celebrating the vernal promise of rebirth of another life cycle, a time of planting and cultivating, the nesting of birds, the spawning of fish, and the birth of cubs, kits, fledglings, and fawns. It is an ancient ritual of intersecting cycles that has a creative impact on our interpretation of observations. There is the concept that all human efforts in the arts, music dance, and drama, are directly or indirectly inspired by spirituality expressed in the phenomena of the natural environment.

The ancient origins of art as we know it have just received an astounding

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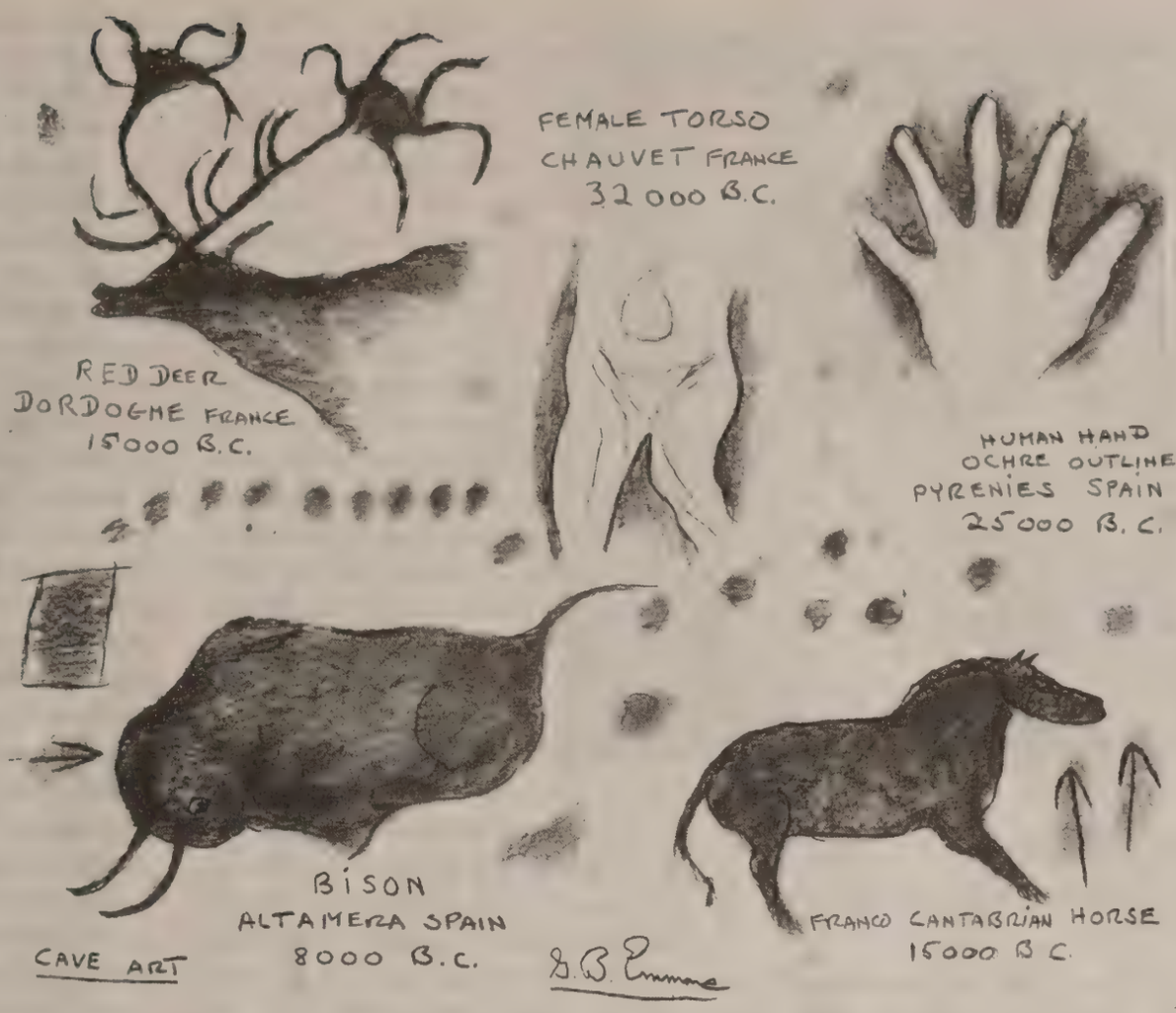
redating by the discovery of an underground treasure of prehistoric art in northern France, including the world's oldest image of a human torso, about 35,000 years old. Covered up all this time by a caving in of the entrance, and found by chance, what might be classified as the Sistine Chapel of prehistory, are some 400 images of animals, as well as a feminine silhouette of human fertility. This grotto in the caverns of Chauvet is remarkable, not only because it predates by seven thousand years the celebrated earliest primitive cave art galleries of Altamira, Dordogne, or the Pyrenees region, but also because of its seasonal subject matter.



Much of cave art seems to be an amazingly effective effort to capture nature and reproduce her images in action for posterity. The beasts of prey were hunted, harvested, and eaten; then their images and anatomy were projected by torch light, using charcoal sticks from a cooking fire. The hand of Homo sapiens himself was also placed on a wall and outlined by blowing a pigment of minerals or ochre, leaving the imprint of the artist that would outlive him by more than seven climactic changes since that time. Most significant is perhaps the human torso emphasizing a female belly and thighs, pertaining to a vernal season of rebirth, symbolizing the spirit of renewal. This is a common phenomena in cave art, and quite intriguing.

Ancient cave art seems to represent the struggle and conflict of an awakening awareness of life and death, depicted in the very first replicas of religious interpretations. So when we witness the spectacle of the season that inspires our appreciation of creative energies, although thousands of miles and as many years separate us from the very beginning, we similarly have our roots deep in Mother Earth, while the light and shadows of celestial powers overhead measure days! The glory of the season past is only surpassed by the celebration of Thanksgiving in the one to come.

— George Emmons

Hear ye, hear ye!

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MaryKate Jordan

The Thread of the Story

Sally Pullen's Wall Quilts

"My mother taught me to sew when I was five," Sally said. "I made doll clothes, some seams inside, some out, on a treadle sewing machine." She and her mother nodded at each other, eyes soft with smiles.

"Sally loved sewing the best of all three girls," Mary Ward affirmed. We sat in the living room of the house near the fire hall which Ray and she had built as their retirement home and which Mary now shares with Sally and her husband, Steve.

When she was ten, Sally made herself a red plaid corduroy dress. She'd learned to put all the seams in the right places by then, and she was so proud of her dress that she continued to make most of her own clothes. "Less so now, but I still sew for my daughters," Sally said. "Just like my mother." The warm electric smiles flowed between her and Mary again.

Despite her practical streak, Sally found her switch from fabric-as-clothes-source to fabric-as-art very liberating. "With wall hangings, you're not so confined," she said. "You don't have to be concerned about proper fit or fashion or dry cleaning."

In 1973, her first quilt teacher began class by making a huge heap of cloth available to the students, then pretty much left them to find their own way. By the end of the day, the teacher had also helped Sally to see (and then refuse to reject) what she had instinctually done with the fabric. Since then, she has turned to fabric again and again for self-expression and to express her love of family and friends.

Most of her quilts have been sold, donated to benefit auctions, or given as gifts. Surrounded by stacks of bright and subtle cottons — remnants of another quilter's gift-stash, which Sally and I were dividing — we and Mary passed photos of the wall quilts Sally still owns back and forth among us.

Though Sally uses her life experiences as a catalyst, her work is sometimes figurative, sometimes not. Occasionally a title arrives first. She had been reading May Sarton in the late 1980s, and the phrase "Plant Dreaming Deep" just wouldn't go away until Sally created a piece in response to it. The cream and sand neutrals, the deep and pale pinks and blues she used in the little quilt (pictured), along with its play of lights, mediums, and darks and the rhythmic dance of its organic inhabitants, create a compelling and otherworldly dream-time. Given the opportunity, May Sarton might just have written a poem about it.

— MaryKate Jordan

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New Film by Sanjiban Premieres at Triplex

The boffo summer blockbuster movie that everyone has been waiting for will finally arrive, only a little bit late. The world premiere of *One on None*, a new film by New Marlborough filmmaker Sanjiban Sellew, will have its world premiere at the Triplex in Great Barrington on Friday, September 7, and run through Thursday, September 13. Because of the clout the *Monterey News* carries in the art world, this reviewer was given a special advance screening.

One on None tells the universal story of a man, a ball, and a dream, of the male desire to be good at something and to demonstrate that skill by testing it and, yes, by winning. Squeegee, a window washer by trade, explains in an introductory voice-over that he once had a brief taste of glory in high school basketball, enjoying one victorious season. But then the bubble popped; key teammates graduated, and the word got out that Squeegee couldn't go to his left. His team became a consistent loser.

The losing has haunted him over the years, until his yearning for redemption drives him to make a comeback, to prove that he isn't a loser. Besides it's been so long that nobody remembers he can't go to his left, so there shouldn't be any problem — unless, of course, he's playing nobody. And that's exactly who Squeegee decides to take on, for he makes his comeback in the One on None league, which seems to be coming into being as he plays. If he can go undefeated in the regular season, he can win his way to the finals of the One on None Championship.

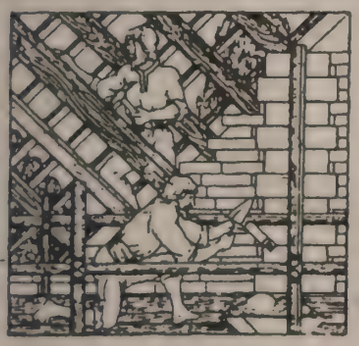
Along the way he has games against a squat dog that is tenacious with the ball and appears to have quite a homecourt advantage, and a frog that may be no more than what it seems. One of his away games is apparently in some region of the Underworld, and another is in a cemetery, where Squeegee makes a most sportsmanlike gesture that could cost him the game. Suffice it to say that Squeegee does manage to make it to the One on None Eastern Championship, where he takes on Nobody in a desolate setting right out of Samuel Beckett. (It was actually filmed in Housatonic.)

Sanjiban's movies are always quirky, funny, and entertaining, but those of us who have followed his work over the years know that he has a serious concern with the human quest for meaning in a society that seems devoid of it. Bergman has his chess game with Death, and Sanjiban has his boxing match with God (in his classic *The Fight That Never Ends*, available on a video with other short films). In *Without a King*, Brobie teaches transformation and transcendental psychology in a dumpster; the audience in the Mahaiwe Theater on the magical evening in 1995 when it was screened was indeed transformed with good cheer.

The management of the Triplex is to be commended for supporting local filmmakers and making this showing possible. We should all show our support of their effort, and especially of Sanjiban's, by making sure that *One on None* does not refer to the audience

One on None, *A Sanjiban Film, written, directed by, filmed by, and starring Sanjiban; Mickey Friedman, editor; John Sellew, music supervisor; presented by Konkapot Big Boys and Blue Hill Films, will show daily at 5:30 p.m. from Friday, Sept. 7, through Thursday, Sept. 13 at the Triplex in Great Barrington. Rated G; running time 30 min.; admission $3.*

— Will Marsh



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Bob & Jane Volckhausen

Bob Volckhausen (l) with son Jim and Jane holding Galen

Monterey has many loyal summer residents but very few, if any, have been coming here for eighty-six years. Bob (Walter) Volckhausen of 15 Bidwell Road first arrived in 1915 when he was four. His family rented a cottage from the Bruckbauers. About 1929 they purchased it.

The Volckhausen family found Monterey an exhilarating change from New York City, where Bob's father was principal of the New York Evening High School for Men. Bob and his friend Dick Stoiber spent their days hiking through the pine woods and rowing around the lake. Dick was a budding naturalist who enjoyed identifying flora and fauna. There were very few houses on the lake at that time. Gently ringing cowbells added to the pastoral setting. In the evening the family often rowed to Bullhead Rock and then followed a trail to the school house and saw movies starring Charlie Chaplin, Douglas Fairbanks, Sr. and others. As Bob grew older he enjoyed the lively square dancing in Monterey and surrounding towns. Sammy Spring was a favorite caller.

In those days it was possible to manage in Monterey without a car. Visitors like the Volckhausens arrived on the train at Great Barrington with a heavy trunk. Ellery Heath met them with the stage for the trip to Monterey. This vehicle was horse-drawn in the early days and the terminology continued into the 1940s!

Julius Miner delivered groceries, sometimes traveling long distances on almost impassable roads. He was especially concerned about elderly residents who were dependent upon his service. Bob had the privilege of riding with him on some of his missions. Milk was delivered by Ellery Heath's sons, and local farmers came by in small trucks loaded with vegetables.

Jane Volckhausen first visited Monterey in 1945 or '46. She was a graduate of Bryn Mawr and Bob of Columbia. In 1947 they spent their honeymoon at the cottage. They shared an interest in public housing and cooperative projects. Bob had worked for the Group Health Association and Jane for public housing in Washington, D.C. Bob had started living in Greenbelt, Maryland, in 1937. This was a federal planned community which was sold to a cooperative founded by the residents. Two of the Volckhausen's children were born there and two in Hampton, Virginia. Bob taught mathematics at Hampton University for twenty years.

Bob and Jane were both raised as Presbyterians; their interest in peace and social justice has drawn them to membership in the Society of Friends.

The four Volckhausen children, Janet, Paul, Tom, and Jim, had wonderful times in Monterey. They built both a canoe and a sailfish from kits. Some years they stayed into cold weather to complete their projects. Now they come to Monterey with their children.

The cottage has not "stayed the same," it "is the same," with wonderful rafters and 2 x 4 shelves for storage. It says to visitors that life need not be complicated. In fact, it can be delightful with warm and welcoming hosts such as the Volckhausens.

— Jana Shepard

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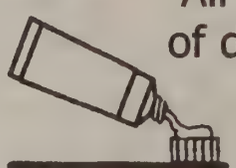

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Kudos for Lakefest

To the Editor:

Congratulations to the Lake Garfield Association for the LakeFest celebration. Right from the very beginning it was well done; the beautiful poster of Lake Garfield taken from Rock Ridge (I right away sent a copy of that to Alice Somers, former owner of Rock Ridge), the smaller advertisements and brochures well placed around town, the schedule of activities itself. The LakeFest committee should be proud of all its planning and hard work.

And, of course, the fireworks! Thanks to all who must have so generously donated to the purchase. It seemed as if all of Monterey was there the night of August 18 to "ooh" and "aah" and applaud. It was a bit of the old Monterey community spirit!

— Gige O'Connell

And More Kudos

Dear Neighbors,

What a wonderful piece of downhome teamwork! First, the Arts-Council-sponsored "Moonlight and Morning Star" concert was scheduled for August 18 at the Meetinghouse. Since the musicians also had a place in their hearts for easing hunger in the world, the concert was designated a fund-raiser for the Monterey Ark Project. (Sponsored by the Meetinghouse, all money raised for the Ark is donated to Heifer Project International.)

Then the Lakefest committee was born. They, with Kathy Frome and Heidi Haverkamp as primary liaison, united to create a "both-and" celebration: Lakefest afternoon events; Meetinghouse concert; Lakefest fireworks.

Even the weather cooperated. The neighborhood turned out to enjoy it all. And everyone's generosity at the concert moved the Ark Project $490 closer to its $5,000 goal. Monterey: what a wonderful place to live!

Look for further information about the Monterey Ark Project in upcoming issues of the *News*. For general information about the work of Heifer Project International, go to the website at heiferproject.org, or call 1-800-422-0474.

— Parish Council,
The Monterey Meetinghouse

Dinah Also Recommends

Clementina's Cactus
by Ezra Jack Keats

This picture book is truly a picture book. There are absolutely no words in the entire book. Ezra Jack Keats tells the whole story only through pictures.

Clementina and her father live in the desert. One day they go for a walk and Clementina finds a cactus. Clementina's father makes her come in because of a storm. During the storm, Clementina worries about her cactus; she doesn't know if it will survive it or not. To find out if Clementina's cactus lives through the storm or disappears like a wisp of smoke, check this book out at the Monterey Library

— Dinah Mielke

I Don't Get It . . .

There are many things in this world that I just can't seem to completely understand. When I ask the question, "Why?" my brain just can't come up with an answer! Now these aren't lofty metaphysical questions . . . No . . . Much more down-to-earth-type questions. I might read an article in the *Monterey News*, let's say, about salt or contractor bids, and no one seems to be talking to each other — things like that. You know, the small stuff, people to people things. My brain can spin for hours.

Try this one: The parking-lot-impaired person who can manage to fill an entire lot with one car. Keep a close eye on the nearest parking area and you are bound to sight one. I saw one just this morning while down at the playground. Someone positioned their car in such a way as to block about four spaces. Must have been in a hurry to get to the swings.

I don't get it . . .

— John Sellew

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Remembering Rita McMahon

Rita M. McMahon, 81, of Westfield, a summer resident of Monterey since 1957, died July 24 at home.

Born in Westfield on May 20, 1920, daughter of Charis and Corinne Dube Marcoullier, she resided there for many years. She later moved to Venice, Florida, for several years, and had recently returned to Westfield. She was a communicant of St. Mary's Church in Westfield.

She leaves her husband of 61 years, James F. McMahon; four sons, Robert J. McMahon of Otis, Wayne T. McMahon of Erlanger, KY, Ronald W. McMahon of Monterey, and Jeffrey S. McMahon of Great Barrington; a daughter, Nancy R. McMahon of Middleboro; five grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

The funeral was July 28 from Firtion-Adams Funeral Home, 76 Broad St., Westfield, followed by a Liturgy of Christian Burial in St. Mary's Church in Westfield. Burial was in St. Mary's Cemetery in Westfield.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the ALS Development Foundation, 218 Mill St., Newton, MA 02460.

Personal Notes

Happy Birthday to **Dinah Mielke** on the 2nd, **Gabriele Haapanen** on the 3rd, **Micole Raab** and **Kate Vallianos** on the 4th, **Marya Makuc** on the 9th, **Talia Freundlich** on the 10th, **Christopher Monk** on the 11th, **Parker Gauthier** and **MaryKate Jordon** on the 12th, **Jeff Gauthier** on the 13th, **Christina Vallianos** on the 23rd, **Ellen Coburn** on the 24th, **Stephanie Grotz** on the 26th, **Marcus Sheridan** on the 27th, **Rod Palmer** and **Ray Tryon** on the 28th, **Scott Sheridan** and **Susan Sheridan** on the 29th.

Happy Anniversary to **Laury and Jerry Epstein** on the 3rd, **Ann and John Higgins** on the 7th, **Mary and Mark Makuc** on the 11th, **Barbara and Bob Gauthier** on the 17th.

Congratulations to **Jonathan and Catherine Fletcher** (and big brothers **Ben and Peter**) on the birth of **Jesse Kendon Fletcher** on July 6, 2001.

— Deborah Mielke

"Jazz, Food & Wine" in New Marlborough

The New Marlborough Village Association's "Music and Much More in the Meeting House" series celebrates its tenth anniversary on Saturday, September 8, at 4:30 p.m. in the historic Meeting House with a jazz concert featuring The John Sauer Trio and jazz singer Evita Cobo, followed by a food and wine pairing hosted by renowned "Sommelier of the Year" Joshua Wesson. The wine is hand selected by Mr. Wesson and paired with food prepared by the chef from the four-star Inn on the Green.

The audience is also invited to view the "Air Atmosphere and Kinetics" exhibit of sculpture, photography, and paintings by Berkshire County artists, which will be showing in the Meeting House Gallery through September 30.

Individual tickets to the entire event are $30; reservations are recommended for guaranteed seating. For tickets and information, call 413-229-3126.

Contributors

We thank the following people for their recent contributions in response to our annual fund-raising appeal. You are what keeps us going.

Eleanor Kimberley
Kyle and Don Pierce
William and Carol Ban
Carole and Gerard Clarin
William and Marie Bell
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Calendar

Every Thursday: People's Pantry, 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m., St. Peter's Parish, 16 Russell St., Great Barrington. Free food for the needy.

Sunday, September 2: Full Moon

Monday, September 3: Town Offices closed for observance of Labor Day.

Saturday, September 8: "Jazz, Food & Wine," 4:30 p.m., New Marlborough Meeting House. Tenth anniversary celebration of "Music and Much More in the Meeting House" series, featuring The John Sauer Trio with singer Evita Cobo, followed by wine and food pairing by sommelier Joshua Wesson. $30. Reservations recommended, 413-229-3126. See p. 22.

"The Worlds of Kurt Weil," a musical exploration starring George Preston, 8 p.m., Sandisfield Arts Center, Hammertown Rd. at Rt. 57. Tickets $15 at the door.

Sunday, September 9: Grandparents Day

Thursday, September 13:

Free blood pressure clinic; 2:30–3:30 p.m., Town Hall, administered by Visiting Nurses Assoc. **(Please note change in day, time, and location.)**

Hazardous waste mini-collection, 3 p.m.–6 p.m., Otis Transfer Station, 538 W. Center Road. Dispose of unwanted oil paint and motor oil. See p. 6.

Sunday, September 16: Young Actors Klub will perform two short plays. "Love and Lust" and "One Fine Morning," both written and directed by Hope deManbey of Sandisfield, 2 p.m., Sandisfield Arts Center, Hammertown Rd. at Rt. 57. Recommended for audiences over ten years of age. Admission free.

Friday, September 21: Food Co-op order distribution and pickup, 11 a.m.–6 p.m. Meetinghouse basement.

Saturday, September 22:

Autumnal equinox.

Cheesemaking in the Berkshires: workshop for cheesemakers at Rawson Brook Farm goat dairy, 3–5 p.m., New Marlborough Road, Monterey. Sponsored by Regional Food and Farm Project, 518-427-6537. Susan Sellew, 413-528-2138.

Hazardous waste mini-collection, 9 a.m.–noon, Lenox DPW, 275 Main St., Route 7A, across from Mass Highway Dept. Dispose of unwanted oil paint and motor oil. See p. 6.

Square & contra dancing, 8:30–11:30 p.m., Sheffield Grange, Rt. 7, Sheffield, Mass. Music by Mountain Laurel, calling by Christine Hale. All dances are taught, beginners and children are welcome. Refreshments at intermission. Adults $5, children $2. Information 413-528-9385.

The Observer

July 26—August 25, 2001

High temp. (8/10)	96°
Low temp. (7/28)	46°
Avg. high temp.	83.8°
Avg. low temp.	58.4°
Avg. temp.	71.1°
Total rainfall	2.86"

Precipitation occurred on 10 days.

Poetry reading coordinated by Howard Faerstein, 7 p.m., Sandisfield Arts Center, Hammertown Rd. at Rt. 57. If you would like to read your work, please call Mr. Faerstein at 413-258-8107. Admission is free. See p. 19.

Thursday, September 27: Yom Kippur

Saturday, September 29:

Robbins-Zust Family Marionettes perform "Rumplestiltskin," a delightful one-hour show featuring hand-crafted marionettes and live music for children and adults, 11 a.m., Sandisfield Arts Center, Hammertown Rd. at Rt. 57. Admission is free.

Baritone Benjamin Luxon and his daughter Rachel Luxon, coloratura soprano, will perform together with pianist Joel Revzen, 8 p.m., Sandisfield Arts Center, Hammertown Rd. at Rt. 57. Tickets $20, with proceeds going to the Arts Center restoration. For reservations, information, call 413-258-3309.

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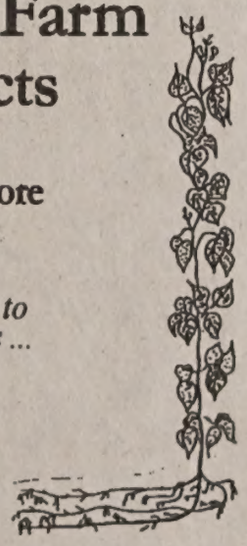

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Mailing Labels ..... Joe Baker
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Contributions from local artists this month: George Emmons, p. 17; Bonner McAllester, p. 15; Glynis Oliver, p. 19.

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